GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4051
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2000
FARMERS RIGHT BILL
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI;SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have opposed the Farmers Right Bill, 1999 inthe present form and suggested that major changes are to be incorporated;

(b) if so, the suggestions made by the State Governments;

(c) whether some States have also sought amendments in the Seed Act, 1966;

(d) if so, the amendments proposed by the State Governments; and

(e) the action taken by Union Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a) & (b): The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers` Rights Bill, 1999 wasintroduced in Lok Sabha on 14.12.1999 and has been referred to a Joint Committee ofthe Houses of Parliament for examination. The Joint Committee of the Houses duringtheir study visits have received suggestions from various agencies/organizations, including State Governments, on various provisions of the Bill, including the Farmers` Rights provision. Some of them have suggested for a separate and more exhaustive Chapter on Farmers` Rights.

(c) & (d): Some of the State Governments have suggested amendments in the Seeds Act relating to provisions like compulsory registration of notified and unnotified varieties, procedure for drawal of samples, responsibilities of Seed Certification Agencies, enhancement of penalty provisions, etc.

(e): A Seed Policy Review Group was constituted to review the existing legislationrelating to the seeds sector and recommend amendments therein. The recommendations of the Committee are under examination by the Department.